

IN SUMMARY

Taking on City Hall

In what is being called the first such arrangement of its kind in the nation, the Wichita, Kan., school district is establishing a magnet high school housed entirely in city hall. **Page 5.**

Freshman Slots Go Begging

The continuing decline in the number of 18-year-olds in the U.S. population is leading to an increasing number of unfilled freshman slots at colleges and universities next fall. **Page 6.**

Health and Learning

The American education and health-care systems must work more in concert to help students achieve their full learning potential, a group of health and education experts said last week. **Page 6.**

Cleveland Board Ends Dispute

The Cleveland school board ended months of public bickering by voting to buy out the remaining 14 months of embattled Superintendent Alfred D. Tutela's contract for \$330,000. **Page 8.**

N.J. Finance-Plan Woes

Educators last week criticized Gov. James J. Florio's new school-finance proposal, but gave him credit for advancing a plan aimed at reducing the wide disparities in school spending. **Page 20.**

Learning-Disabled Unserved

Many high-school students with learning disabilities are in mainstreamed classes where they are failing courses and getting little or no extra help, a federal report concludes. **Page 23.**

Collective Bargaining Upheld

Teachers at schools run by the Department of Defense have the right to bargain collectively on salary issues, the U.S. Supreme Court said in a unanimous decision last week. **Page 24.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

STATES

Transitional Kindergarten Programs May Harm Students, Va. Report Says

Transitional programs designed to retain developmentally slow children in kindergarten an extra year may be doing more harm than good, a Virginia department of education study concludes.

A report released last month shows that children who were held back a year in a transitional program—often called “junior kindergarten”—scored about 20 points lower on cognitive tests than did children of the same sex, race, and socioeconomic status who attended regular kindergarten and who went on to 1st grade.

The report, based on data from 55 school districts throughout the state, also noted that extra-year programs enrolled a disproportionate percentage of boys, minorities, and children from low-income families.

The transitional 1st-grade program was designed to help slow-developing kindergartners by giving them extra time to catch up with their peers before entering the more academically rigorous 1st grade. Such programs proliferated in Virginia and other states throughout the 1980's.

Virginia education officials now say they are considering a new strategy to redesign kindergarten and primary-grade programs to make them less academic and more flexible so that slower-learning children can remain with their peers, according to Assistant Superintendent Callie Shingleton.

■ **The Kentucky Council on Higher Education has set goals for improving minority-student enrollment and faculty hiring at colleges and universities in the state.**

The higher-education board also threatened to impose sanctions on institutions that fail to improve their records of recruitment and retention of black students.

Enrollment of resident undergraduate black students at state colleges and universities fell from 3.7 percent of total enrollment in 1982 to 3.5 percent in 1989.

The council's plan, approved May 21, includes percentage goals to be reached by the 1994-95 school year. The council could refuse to approve new academic programs for schools that did not achieve their minority-enrollment or -hiring goals.

DISTRICTS

4 Schools in Detroit Archdiocese Closed; City Considers Shutting 16

John W. Porter, superintendent of the Detroit public schools, has recommended that 16 schools in the financially troubled district be closed.

The plan, which would require that more than 5,000 students be relocated, would result in a savings of \$12.6 million next year, officials said. Fifteen of the schools recommended for closing are at or below 70 percent of their capacity.

The Detroit school board is scheduled to consider Dr. Porter's recommendation early this month.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit has announced that it will close four schools at the end of the school year.

The archdiocese said low enrollment and insufficient funding led to the closing of St. David, St. Hyacinth, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven elementary schools and St. Hedwig High School.

St. Hyacinth was scheduled to be closed last year but was granted one year in which to seek more students. The school, which enrolled 415 students in 1983, had only 69 potential students for next year, a spokesman for the archdiocese said.

The closings will leave the city of Detroit

with six Catholic high schools and 46 elementary schools. The archdiocese, which includes some suburban areas, has a total of 166 schools, officials said.

■ **A plan to transfer black students from Kansas City, Mo., schools to suburban districts at state expense has been upheld by a federal appeals court.**

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ordered the plan in April.

By a 7-to-2 vote, the full circuit court last month denied an appeal by several suburban districts to overturn its order.

The interdistrict plan would allow up to 1,200 black students to transfer next year, and would gradually increase the ceiling to 6,000 students over the next five years.

A lawyer for the state of Missouri, which would be required to pay tuition and transportation costs for the students who transfer under the plan, said last week that the state does not plan to appeal the order.

But a lawyer for the suburban districts said “there's a strong possibility” they will ask the Supreme Court to review the case.

■ **New York schools would receive about \$20 million less next year than this year in the city budget proposed by Mayor David N. Dinkins.**

In his \$28-billion budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, Mr. Dinkins unveiled several tax increases and service cuts to fend off

an estimated \$2-billion deficit.

For the city's school system, the \$20-million cut “cannot be taken without hurting our classroom services,” said Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez. He will lobby to restore the cuts, a spokesman said.

A spokesman for the United Federation of Teachers said the union would also fight to restore the budget cuts. She added that she was pleased that the cuts “will not affect classrooms directly” and that they include no teacher layoffs.

The city council must still approve Mr. Dinkins's budget. Some of the new taxes would also have to be approved by the state legislature.

■ **A lawsuit alleging that the Rockland, Idaho, school district unconstitutionally allowed Mormon seminary classes and other religious activities in school has been settled out of court.**

Two families sued the district last year in federal court, alleging that school officials were violating the U.S. Constitution's prohibition against government establishment of religion. The lawsuit was backed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The lawsuit charged that a school in the district had virtually become an arm of the Mormon Church, allowing on-campus “release time” seminary classes during school hours, prayer before athletic competitions, and the shifting of some school-sanctioned activities to the local Mormon church.

Under a consent decree approved last month by U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge in Boise, the district must stop all activities contrary to the First Amendment. The settlement includes an undisclosed sum for damages to the two non-Mormon families who brought the suit.

■ **A comprehensive anti-discrimination policy recently adopted by the Hardin County school board is being heralded by civil-rights activists as a model for other districts throughout Kentucky.**

The new policy calls for annual anti-discrimination training programs for school employees and requires principals or the superintendent to investigate any complaints of discrimination.

Officials of the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union said they planned to send a copy of the new policy to every district in the state.

The district adopted the policy to comply with the terms of last month's settlement in U.S. District Court of a suit filed against school officials by a student.

A 16-year-old black student alleged in the suit that a white art teacher had twice told her to “stop acting black” during the 1988-89 school year, and then lowered her

A Close Encounter



Friends of Lance O'Pry, center, of Lamar High School in Rosenberg, Tex., shaved their heads in support of their classmate while he underwent chemotherapy for cancer.

AP/WideWorld

grade to punish her for complaining to school officials. The U.S. Education Department's office for civil rights subsequently found the district in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

■ **Schools Chancellor Joseph A. Fernandez and the unions representing teachers and other school employees have reached a tentative agreement on a plan to test school workers for drug use in New York City.**

Under the agreement, which is on the agenda of the Board of Education's meeting this month, school employees could be tested for drug and alcohol use only if there was reasonable suspicion that their job performance was impaired.

School workers and the district also agreed that the first time employees tested positive for drug use, they would be given an opportunity to seek drug treatment. If they did not test positive for three years after seeking treatment, the original positive test result would be removed from their files, the two sides agreed.

■ **The District of Columbia school board agreed late last month to close seven schools over the next three years, a decision that school officials estimate will save the district about \$3 million to \$4 million annually.**

School officials said the decision, which represents the first time since 1982 that the board considered closing several schools at once, was prompted by the declining enrollment in the city's public schools.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew E. Jenkins had proposed closing 12 schools, all of which are at least half-empty or dilapidated. Following a series of 10 community hearings on the closings, however, the board decided to pare the list to 7.

Four schools will close permanently this summer, two will close in June 1991, and one will close in June 1992. In the next few months, the board will consider 17 other schools Mr. Jenkins named for closing.

■ **Three teenage boys were arrested last week as suspects in a drive-by shooting at a Fort Worth, Tex., elementary school in which two children were wounded.**

Police said the suspects were not gang members, but were "just out for kicks."

The youths allegedly drove by Sunrise Elementary School during recess and fired a .22-caliber pistol into the crowd on the playground.

The two wounded students, whose names were not released, were in good condition last week.

Police have charged the suspects with delinquent conduct, which is the most serious charge juveniles can face in the state.

PEOPLE

■ **Derek Bok, the president of Harvard University for two decades, has announced that he will step down next year.**

The 60-year-old Mr. Bok said his departure was timed to coincide with the beginning of a new capital-improvements fund-raising campaign. The university is also searching for a new dean of the faculty to replace Michael Spence, who recently left for Stanford University. Mr. Bok said his replacement should appoint Mr. Spence's successor.

Mr. Bok is credited with leading the drive to enlarge the endowment of the 354-year-old university and with introducing a new core curriculum for undergraduates.

■ **Gloria Chernay has been named execu-**

tive director of the Association of Teacher Educators.

Ms. Chernay, currently director of constituent services for the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, will assume her new responsibilities on Sept. 1.

The A.T.E. represents teacher educators at approximately 650 colleges and universities and in some 500 school systems across the country.

■ **The Committee for Economic Development, a 250-member nonprofit research and education organization, has named Sol Hurwitz its new president.**

Mr. Hurwitz has been affiliated with the C.E.D. since 1966 and most recently served as its senior vice president. He succeeds Robert C. Holland, who is retiring from the position after 14 years.

Lessons From Space

Space, the final . . . classroom?

The space shuttle Columbia, scheduled to lift off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., this week, will introduce a new twist to the usual middle-school science class—the first science lesson beamed from outer space.

As part of a pilot program created by the education office of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the space shuttle's crew will translate the fruits of its mission into a lesson plan for Earth-bound science students.

The lesson plan for "Space Classroom, Assignment: The Stars" grows out of the crew's regular duties on the mission, dubbed "Astro 1."

During the nine-day flight—now delayed several times by technical difficulties—the seven-member shuttle crew will use specially designed telescopes on board the craft to take ultraviolet and X-ray measurements of more than 200 galactic nuclei, quasars, and other celestial objects.

Barring complications, five days into the flight two crew members, Ronald A. Parise and Robert A. R. Parker, will conduct a 20-minute live lecture and demonstration on the

electromagnetic spectrum from the cabin of the Columbia.

The on-board demonstration will be followed by a second lecture given by crew members to students gathered at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Then the students at Marshall, along with others gathered at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., will have an opportunity to pose questions directly to the Columbia shuttle crew.

The lesson, slated to be carried live on NASA's television system and some cable-television systems, will later be packaged in video format for classroom use.

This first installment of "Space Classroom," one of 160 programs conducted by the NASA education office, has received widespread attention from educators, says Terri Sindelar, a spokesman for the education office. More than 10,000 teacher guides have been distributed nationwide, she says.

If this mission is rated a success, inquisitive students can probably look forward to future stellar performances from the Columbia crew, Ms. Sindelar says. —S.K.G.

DIMENSIONS

Rural School Teachers

In 1987-88, the typical schoolteacher in rural America was a white woman with about 13 years of experience, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Over all, nearly 7 out of 10 teachers in rural areas that school year were women, according to the survey. The percentage was highest at the elementary level, where 87.2 percent of the public-school, and 90.5 percent of the private-school, teachers were women. In secondary schools, the faculties were about evenly divided between the sexes.

Nearly 93 percent of the teachers were white; in private schools, the figure was about 95 percent, the data show.

The overwhelming majority of teachers in rural schools that year had at least a bachelor's degree, the data show. Of teachers in private elementary schools, however, 12.4 percent had no degree, and 1.6 percent had only an associate's degree. The remainder had at least a bachelor's degree.

The data were obtained during the Schools and Staffing Survey conducted by the N.C.E.S. They include information on more than 12,000 teachers in schools defined by their administrators as being in rural or farming communities or on American Indian reservations.

More information is available from Joyce D. Stern, Programs for the Improvement of Practice, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-5651.

Characteristics of Rural Teachers, 1987-88

Characteristic	Total %	Public		Private	
		Elementary	Secondary	Elementary	Secondary
Sex					
Male	30.0	12.2	48.1	9.5	49.1
Female	69.5	87.2	51.5	90.5	50.4
Not reported	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.5
Race					
Indian, Eskimo	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.8	—*
Asian	0.4	0.4	0.4	—*	0
Black	4.2	4.5	4.2	1.3	—*
White	92.9	92.7	92.9	95.0	99.5
Not reported	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.8	3.8
Ethnic origin					
Hispanic	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.5
Non-Hispanic	96.5	96.7	96.9	96.7	94.0
Not reported	2.1	2.3	1.8	2.2	4.5

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics

* Too few cases for a reliable estimate

UPDATE

■ **Nearly 9 percent of 1st-grade students in Chicago public schools were forced to repeat the grade last year, and in some schools, the retention rate for 1st graders was more than 20 percent, according to a new study.**

The study, "June 1989 Grade Retention in Chicago Public Elementary Schools," was conducted by the Chicago Panel on Public School Policy and Finance, a coalition of civic organizations that monitors education. The school district currently is re-evaluating its promotion policy as part of a systemwide reform effort mandated by the state legislature. (See *Education Week*, May 16, 1990.)

The study found that the citywide retention rate for grades K-8 was 4.3 percent for the year ending last June.

The percentage of students retained, however, varied enormously by grade level, the study found. A higher percentage of students in grade 1 were retained than in any other grade, the study said, while only 0.9 percent of kindergarten students were held back.

Retention rates also varied widely from school to school, the study found. Of the 434 schools with 1st grades, 23 retained 20 percent or more of their 1st-grade students; one school retained more than half of its 1st graders. Another 61 schools, however, retained none of their 1st-grade students.

The study found a number of characteristics that correlated with a school's retention rate. The higher a school's attendance rate, the lower the retention rate, the study found. Also, schools with a higher percentage of low-income students had higher retention rates.

John Q. Easton, research director for the

coalition, said he hopes that the Chicago board of education and the new local school councils will review the report in developing new retention policies.

■ **The U.S. Justice Department has begun a criminal investigation of whether Virginia dairies are using anti-competitive practices to make greater profits on school and government contracts.**

The federal probe is the second major inquiry into milk contracts in the state. It was requested by Mary Sue Terry, Virginia's attorney general, whose office is conducting a civil investigation of the milk contracts of the state's 133 school districts.

Similar probes have led to convictions of dairy executives in Florida, Georgia, and Kentucky. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 28, 1990.)

■ **The DeKalb County, Ga., chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has asked a federal court to allow it to join the plaintiffs in a 22-year-old desegregation suit.**

The N.A.A.C.P. chapter has long advised the plaintiffs, but last month's action is its first official attempt to enter the case.

The group's officials said the move was prompted by a new magnet-school plan that the district has proposed for next fall. The group views the plan as inadequate to meet the needs of minority students.

The DeKalb system has been under federal court order since 1969. Last October, a federal appeals court ruled that the system must consider further steps, including mandatory busing, to desegregate its schools. (See *Education Week*, Oct. 25, 1989.)

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Justice Argument Signals Key Shift On Desegregation

Bush, Reagan Officials Differ on Okla. Case

By William Snider

WASHINGTON—In a move that provides the first clear indication that the Bush Administration's stance on school desegregation differs sharply from that of the Reagan Administration, the Justice Department has reversed itself on a key issue in the Oklahoma City, Okla., school-desegregation case.

In papers filed this month with the U.S. Supreme Court, which agreed in April to review the case, lawyers for the department have dropped their previous contention that the district has fully remedied the unlawful segregation that existed before 1972, when a court-ordered desegregation plan was implemented.

Instead, the department is asking the High Court to remand the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit for further findings on the question of whether the district is "unitary," or legally desegregated.

A former Justice Department employee
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11 Cities and States At Lead of Reforms Join in New Alliance

By Lynn Olson

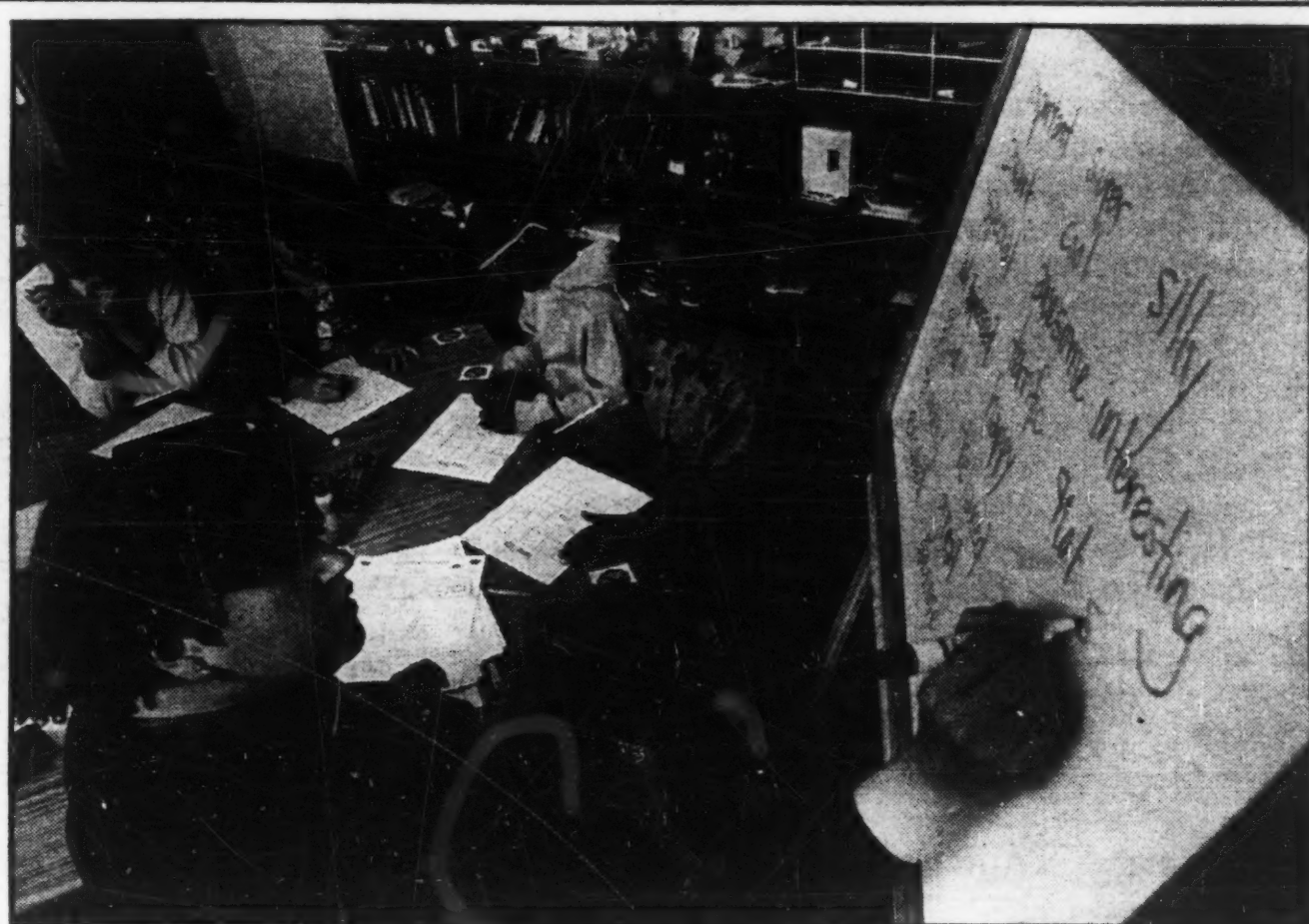
Eleven cities and states that have taken the lead in promoting radical plans for reorganizing their schools have formed a new National Alliance for Restructuring Education.

The Pew Charitable Trusts last week agreed to provide a three-year, \$3-million "challenge" grant for the endeavor, which is a program of the National Center on Education and the Economy. The grant requires the consortium to raise an additional \$3 million in matching funds, half of which must come from state and local sources.

The Melville Corporation of Rye, N.Y., already has pledged \$1 million in support.

The consortium is designed to help the sites consolidate the gains they have made and begin a concerted effort to develop the tools and technical assistance they will need to move forward.

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Lee Johnson, a counselor at Enterprise Elementary School in Prince William County, Va., works with students on a game designed to promote their self-image.

Counselors in Elementary Schools: Children's 'Prevention Specialists'

By Deborah L. Cohen

WOODBIDGE, VA.—In a classroom at the Enterprise Elementary School here, six 4th graders are engaged in an unusual bingo game. Instead of letters or numbers, the blocks on their boards bear words that connote a positive self-image, such as "proud," "important," "relaxed," and "secure."

The children, participants in a group-counseling session on self-concept, drew up the list of bingo words to combat what their school counselor, Lee Johnson, calls "junk thoughts": defeatist feelings that are either self-generated or prompted by others.

Examples the children cite include "I can't do this test," "I'm not interesting," and "I'm stupid."

"What do you do when someone gives you a junk thought?" Ms. Johnson queries her charges.

"Don't accept it," pipes up one child.

"Think it's opposite day," offers another.

Such responses get high marks from elementary-school counselors, teachers, principals, and parents, who say they may help children head off academic as well as emotional and social problems in later years.

The counseling session at this Prince

Continued on Page 14

States Are Looking to Paraprofessionals As Promising Source of Minority Teachers

By Ann Bradley

The numbers in Connecticut, as in many other states, are discouraging: 25 percent of the students are members of minority groups, while only 6 percent of the teachers are.

But the Connecticut legislature, spurred by projections that the gap will continue to widen, has created a new program to address the problem. The state is now helping paraprofessionals in urban schools become teachers.

The Teaching Opportunities for Paraprofessionals, or TOP, program is thought to

be the first state-led initiative to offer classroom aides, many of whom are members of minority groups, the chance to become certified teachers.

But in other states, policymakers, as well as school leaders and teacher educators, are turning their attention to the nation's pool of 500,000 paraprofessionals as a promising source of bilingual and minority teachers.

The concept itself is not new—a federal initiative in the 1970's helped some 20,000 classroom aides become teachers. But when the Career Opportunities Program ended in 1977, its methods were "never institu-

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Plan Offered for Raising Youths' Workforce Skills

Panel Would Require Certificate for Training

By Lynn Olson

A comprehensive strategy to be unveiled this week for upgrading the skills of America's "front line" workers would require every teenager to earn a national certificate around age 16 to qualify for employment or further education and training.

The report by the National Commission on the Skills of the American Work Force warns that the country is headed toward an "economic cliff," in part because of shortcomings in its labor force. Its far-reaching set of recommendations for remedying the situation includes:

- Combining the last two years of high school with a new system of technical and professional training for non-college-bound youths;

- Creating a network of "youth centers" to provide alternative education for all 14- to 21-year-olds who have dropped out of school;

- Providing all Americans four years of publicly financed education and training beyond the initial certificate; and

- Requiring all employers, including schools, to allocate a minimum amount of funds each year to send their workers through certified employment and training programs.

The report, "America's Choice: High Skills or Low Wages," was scheduled to be released this week at a press conference in New York City.

It is based on an eight-month study of economic and human-resources policies in the United States and in six foreign countries: Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, and Sweden.

"A dozen nations now pay wages above ours," it notes. "Our distribution of income is more skewed than any of our major competitors, and our poverty rate is much higher."

Unless the nation redesigns its businesses to become more productive—by putting more authority in the hands of workers and substantially improving their education and training—"we may all slide into relative poverty together," the report asserts.

Continued on Page 12

Publication Schedule

With this issue, *Education Week* begins its summer publishing break. The next issue will be dated Aug. 1.

The display-advertising deadline for the August issue is Friday, July 20. The Marketplace deadline is Monday, July 23.

Weekly publication will resume with the Sept. 5 issue, which will include the Index to Volume IX and the 1990-91 Calendar of Events.

Also in the news

5 New Voices for 'Choice'

A Washington forum proves its backing extends beyond the politically conservative.

7 National Goals Update

Since the summit, competing events and unresolved items have slowed progress.

18 'Learnfare' Expansion

Wisconsin is poised to consider including elementary pupils in its controversial program.

IN SUMMARY

Desegregation Suit Dismissed

A judge has ruled that the federal government and black plaintiffs failed to prove that the unusual structure of the Charleston, S.C., school district violates the rights of black students. **Page 4.**

Path to Site-Based Management

The Philadelphia school district and the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers last week released new guidelines for schools to follow in moving toward site-based management. **Page 5.**

Children's Express at 15

The news service run by school-age journalists celebrated its 15th anniversary last week with a symposium that focused on the need for more media coverage of children's issues. **Page 6.**

Landmark Reform Shelved

Georgia's "performance-based" teacher-certification system, one of the first to require teachers to demonstrate their skills in an actual classroom, came to an end last week. **Page 18**

At Loggerheads in Michigan

In the latest chapter in the state's long-running school-finance debate, the Senate last week rejected a plan to increase education funding by \$1.7 billion over the next five years. **Page 19.**

Teacher Bill Advances

The Senate education subcommittee last week approved with no debate legislation to create a wide range of programs aimed at improving teacher recruitment and training. **Page 20.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Private Schools Report 8% Boost In Voluntary Donations for 1989

Private, independent elementary and secondary schools received an average of 8 percent more in voluntary giving in 1988-89 than the previous year, according to a survey by the Council for Aid to Education.

The 516 schools that responded with full information to the survey reported a total of \$448.7 million in voluntary support for last year, with each school receiving an average of \$869,580.

In 1987, the schools reported an average of \$864,461, but that figure was skewed by two large bequests totaling \$32 million from the estate of George Woodward. When those bequests are excluded, the increase is

8 percent, the survey says.

Day elementary schools received the lowest amount of support, and boarding and boarding/day schools received the most, according to the survey.

Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire reported the most voluntary support (\$12,157,075), and the Culver Academies in Indiana reported the most corporate support (\$3,231,913). Phillips Academy in Massachusetts reported the largest endowment (\$175,927,626).

Support from alumni, which fell sharply the previous year, was up 13.8 percent last year, the survey reported. Gifts from corporations, religious organizations, and miscellaneous organizations were up markedly, the survey said, while foundation grants fell an average of 11.9 percent.

Copies of the survey, "Voluntary Support of Education, 1988-89," will be available

later this month for \$50 each, prepaid, from the Council for Aid to Education, 51 Madison Ave., Suite 2200, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Nineteen national educational and advocacy organizations have joined to lobby for comprehensive sex education for all students by the year 2000.

The National Coalition to Support Sexuality Education, which was formed by the Sex Information Council of the United States, includes groups that represent school administrators, physicians, teachers, counselors, and reproductive-health advocates.

The new coalition plans to press for sex education at the national and state levels, to develop strategies to help local officials implement sex-education programs, and to counteract the efforts of groups that oppose sex education.

STATES

Fla. Bank Official Indicted in \$35-Million Student-Loan Swindle

The former head of student loans for one of the nation's largest student-aid lenders pleaded guilty last week to federal theft and fraud charges for his alleged role in submitting \$35 million in false default claims.

A Tampa grand jury indicted Jeffrey A. Flatten, 38, of St. Petersburg, Fla., on June 6 on charges of making false claims, committing mail fraud, and stealing government funds. Mr. Flatten was head of Florida Federal Savings Bank's student-loan division and had been promoted to vice president during the year in which prosecutors allege he and other bank officers and employees submitted 17,000 falsified insurance claims on Guaranteed Student Loans backed by the U.S. Education Department.

The indictment says Florida Federal, at the time the nation's third-largest G.S.L. lender, sought default payments on the bad loans without first trying to collect on the low-interest college loans. Prosecutors say the bank made at least \$18 million on the claims.

Mr. Flatten's indictment follows the May

convictions of two other Florida Federal employees and the bank itself on similar charges. Sentencing in that case is set for June 27.

The Texas Board of Education has approved a program to reward schools that retain at-risk students or improve students' academic performance.

The new policy, approved June 9, allocates nearly \$10 million in two categories.

Schools that improve students' academic performance, as determined largely by standardized-test scores, will be eligible for rewards of \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Separate funds will be awarded to schools with a high proportion of at-risk students. Schools with programs that improve the performance or attendance of at-risk students will be eligible for awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

The top 10 percent of schools in each group will receive the awards. A Governor's education task force originally recommended the program.

A state-level education committee in Kentucky has rejected a plea by a Governor's task force to install extra emergency exits on school buses.

The Kentucky Minimum Specifications for School Buses Committee voted over-

whelmingly—46 to 4—against recommending to the state board of education that buses throughout the state be revamped to include the extra door.

The four members of the committee who voted in support of the proposal are all members of the Governor's Task Force on School Bus Safety, which urged in a report earlier this year that the new exits be installed to make the buses safer.

The task force was created in 1988 after a school bus carrying a church group in Carroll County crashed, killing 27. In that accident, many of the children died because they were trapped in the back of the bus and could not escape before the bus caught fire.

According to a spokesman for Milo Bryant, state transportation secretary and a member of the committee, group members who voted against the plan were swayed by several bus manufacturers who testified that the extra exits would weaken the overall bus structure.

But bus manufacturers who had testified before the Governor's task force earlier had argued that the extra door would not weaken the buses' structure.

At the meeting earlier this month, Mr. Bryant said he would petition the state board of education to reconsider the plans. If it refuses, he said, he will seek support from the state legislature.

The Electronic Yearbook

While the yearbook staff at South Eugene (Ore.) High School assembles the photographs, advertisements, and layouts for the print version of the school's annual, a separate staff is hoarding electronic images, collecting sound bites, and videotaping school events to compile an electronic counterpart to the high-school standby.

Using about \$30,000 worth of donated computers, software, and cameras, 14 students are preparing the *Electronic Eugenean*, which school officials say will be the first yearbook ever pressed onto a compact disk.

The project is a novel use of CD-ROM—or compact disk-read only memory—a technology that is similar to the process used to produce audio CD recordings.

Computer makers tout CD-ROM as an infinitely more flexible medium for storing data than the ubiquitous floppy disk. Not only does each compact disk have approximately 1,000 times the storage capacity of a floppy, but the compact disk also can be used to store still and video

images as well as text.

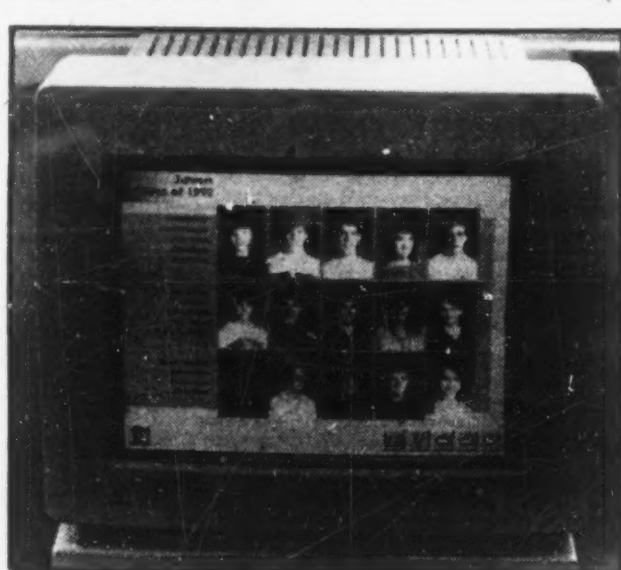
Thomas G. Layton, the school's computer specialist and the adviser for the electronic yearbook project, says he proposed the idea to major computer and electronics firms late last year, hoping to capitalize on their efforts to market "multimedia" technology, in which computers integrate sound, video, and text into a single presentation.

Mr. Layton persuaded Apple Computer Inc., Canon Inc., and Jostens Learning Corporation to back the project by arguing that "what people need is a familiar icon to introduce them to multimedia."

But tradition will not be discarded immediately—the CD-ROM version will be inserted in a pocket in the back of the print version.

And some audio material will be pressed onto the disk so that it can be played on an ordinary compact-disk player.

Those decisions were made largely because the fledgling CD-ROM technology is so scarce and expensive. Currently, the



Even with computer technology, class photographs have a familiar look.

equipment and software needed to view the disk costs about \$5,000.

But, Mr. Layton says, his students are producing the *Electronic Eugenean* with an eye to the future.

"Our idea is that five years from now it'll take \$1,500 worth of equipment," he says. "And that's about the time that these kids will want to take a trip down memory lane." —P.W.

DISTRICTS

Boston's Mayor Flynn Intervenes In Search for New Superintendent

Mayor Raymond Flynn of Boston has offered to help the divided Boston School Committee with its fitful search for a new superintendent.

The search for a successor to Laval S. Wilson, who was fired in February, has been hampered by charges of racial insensitivity and by controversy over a decision by the school committee's president, Daniel Burke, to name Peggy Davis-Mullens, who is white, to head the 29-member search committee.

The search committee is made up of the 13 members of the school committee and 16 representatives of community organizations; 12 of the 29 members are either black, Hispanic, or Asian.

Stephen Holt, a school-committee member, recently gave his seat on the search committee to Louis Elisa, president of the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but the gesture did little to soothe the controversy.

The mayor proposed organizing a seven-member panel to recruit a new superintendent and make recommendations to the search committee, which would interview the candidates. The school committee would make the final decision.

An adviser to Mayor Flynn said last week that the proposal is under consideration.

■ A federal appeals court has ruled that several commercial photography studios in the Norfolk, Va., area cannot collect damages from two national corporations they had accused in a federal antitrust suit of monopolizing the local market for yearbook photographs.

The local studios had accused Olan Mills Inc., of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Kinder-Care Inc., of Montgomery, Ala., of fixing prices in obtaining the contracts to take group photographs for the yearbooks of 22 Norfolk-area high schools.

The studios further alleged that Olan Mills and Kinder-Care engaged in commercial bribery by returning 20 percent to 50 percent of their profits from the sales of students' optional individual portraits to the schools.

In exchange for the donations, the suit said, the companies were designated as the "official" school photographers in letters sent home to parents.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit last month upheld a lower-court ruling dismissing the claims, saying that there was insufficient evidence to show that the companies had engaged in price-fixing.

In rejecting the allegation of commercial bribery, the appeals court said the schools had made it "abundantly clear" to students that their decision to buy the portraits was optional.

■ A former teacher for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, whose conviction on numerous counts of sexual misconduct involving teenage boys in a Navajo reservation school was overturned last year by a federal appeals court, has been convicted on three lesser counts of sexual misconduct.

J. D. Todd, 49, a former teacher at the Lower Greasewood Boarding School, was convicted in 1988 on 13 counts of molesting seven Navajo boys and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which questioned the testimony of the alleged victims, overturned the conviction, but Mr. Todd was indicted again in March on 12 counts of sexual misconduct that allegedly occurred between August 1986 and May 1987.

Six of those counts were dismissed by the judge during the most recent trial, but a jury earlier this month found Mr. Todd

guilty on three of the remaining incidents.

U.S. District Judge Roger Strand is expected to pass sentence on Mr. Todd in August.

■ Cleveland school officials have announced plans to lower standards for promoting high-school students, despite complaints from the teachers' union that the move is an attempt to cover up high retention rates.

District Superintendent Frank J. Huml sent a directive to school principals earlier this month saying that 9th-grade students must only earn three Carnegie units, rather than four, to be promoted to the 10th grade.

In addition, 10th-grade students, who previously needed nine units to be promoted, now only need seven. Students still need 18 units to graduate.

The changes were aimed at motivating students and keeping them in school, according to a district spokesman.

But Richard A. DeColibus, president of the Cleveland Teachers Union, charged that the new requirements were an attempt to cover up high secondary-school failure rates.

Last year, about 14 percent of the 72,000 students in the district were not promoted—most of them at the high-school level. That figure is expected to decrease dramatically with the new standards.

■ The superintendent of the Milwaukee public schools has ordered a freeze for 120 days on all major purchases of technology and has barred employees from attending events paid for by computer manufacturers.

The orders from Robert S. Peterkin and John J. Peterburs, the district's business manager, come in the wake of controversy over a visit several district officials made to the educational division of the International Business Machines Corporation in Atlanta. The computer firm paid the officials' expenses during the visit, which was conducted to display I.B.M. computer systems for schools.

The district currently does not have a formal policy to guide employees in their dealings with potential vendors.

At its meeting this month, the school board is scheduled to consider a code of ethics that would restrict the amount of gratuities and limit the amount of paid travel and other gifts employees may accept from firms that seek to do business with the district.

■ School officials in a suburb of Boston have decided to reopen an elementary school that was cleaned up after teachers and parents voiced concern about the presence of a carcinogenic chemical in the air.

The Needham School Committee voted this month to reopen Hillsdale Elementary School this fall. Since January, the 430-pupil, K-6 school has been closed in order to

DIMENSIONS

Science Teachers

While the overwhelming majority of science teachers in public secondary schools in 1987-88 had majored in or were certified to teach their specialty, striking differences existed in the various specialties, according to data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics.

The data, which come from the Schools and Staffing Survey conducted by the N.C.E.S., show, for example, that 61 percent of biology teachers that year had both majored in, and were certified to teach in, that field. In contrast, only 47 percent of chemistry teachers, 26.5 percent of physics teachers, and 17.4 percent of Earth science/geology teachers held both majors and certifications in their specialties.

The report notes, however, that almost all science teachers at the secondary level had been certified in their field; the proportions ranged from 92 percent in Earth science/geology to 99 percent in physics. The high rate of certification, given the relatively low rate of majoring in these specialties, may reflect a high rate of in-service or post-graduate training in these fields, the survey says.

The same was true of computer-science teachers. Considering both elementary and secondary teachers in this specialty, only 20.2 percent had majored in and were certified in computer science, 14.5 percent had majored but were not certified, 43.2 percent were certified but had no major, and 22.3 percent had neither a major nor a certification in the field.

More information on the report is available from Sharon A. Bobbitt, Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics Division, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-5651.

Qualification of Public Secondary-School Science Teachers, by Primary Assignment Field

Primary assignment field	Majored and certified	Majored, but not certified	No major, but certified	No major, not certified
Total of selected fields	46.8%	0.4%	50.1%	2.8%
Biology	61.0	0.4	37.2	1.3
Chemistry	47.0	--	50.2	2.5
Physics	26.5	--	72.2	--
Earth science/geology	17.4	--	74.7	7.4

-- Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey, 1987-88.

remove the chemical trichloroethylene (TCE), which was found in water under the building and was present in the school's air.

State officials believe the chemical, which can damage skin and has caused cancer in laboratory animals, traveled downhill to the school in drainage from a nearby company.

■ Kentucky school-board officials have asked Boyd County's prosecutor to investigate inaccurate class-size reports that last month drew a reprimand for the county's school superintendent.

The state's Board for Elementary and Secondary Education contacted Jerry Vincent, Boyd County's attorney, late last month after voting to reprimand Superintendent Delmis Donta for failing to notify the state of overcrowded classrooms in his

district. Mr. Vincent has not reported any action in the case.

Gary Bale, a lawyer for the state board, said Donta signed a one-page compliance statement in September without indicating any problems with class sizes. Districts with crowded classrooms can ask the state to suspend the limits. State investigators reported violations in several Boyd County kindergarten, elementary, and junior-high school classrooms in February, and Mr. Bale said the problem was resolved by reassigning teachers and aides in March.

The state board declined to penalize the district for the incident, saying that withholding district funds would only make a bad situation worse. Instead, Mr. Donta was reprimanded, and the state will monitor class sizes and conduct regular administrative audits over the next three years.

UPDATE

■ Two top District of Columbia school officials have been demoted in the wake of an internal audit that revealed they were involved in concealing from the city council data that showed a sharp drop in enrollment.

Arthur G. Hawkins, a deputy superintendent, and David Huie, chief of research, were reassigned to other jobs in the system after *The Washington Post* published the results of a confidential report alleging that the men had been involved in withholding from the city council a figure showing that the district's enrollment was about 6,500 students less than previously reported. The published account was confirmed last week by a district spokesman.

Superintendent Andrew E. Jenkins said

he had not directed Mr. Hawkins to delete the figure and did not know why it was omitted. He described the audit—which criticizes school officials for improperly calculating enrollment figures for the last four years—as credible.

The auditors said the system's enrollment dropped an average of about 2,000 students a year during the past decade, to about 81,300 students, but school officials in recent years have stated publicly that the enrollment was stable and that the system's budget needed to be increased.

In March the District of Columbia city council drastically cut a proposed 1991 budget increase for the schools, in part because of the confusion over the enrollment figures. (See *Education Week*, March 28, 1990.)

■ Whittle Communications' "Channel One," the controversial advertiser-sup-

ported news show for high-school students, has ended the school year with a total of 4,000 subscriber schools, the company has announced.

The 12-minute daily program, which premiered March 5, is halfway toward its goal of signing up 8,000 schools nationwide, Whittle officials said. (See *Education Week*, Feb. 21, 1990.)

Whittle said the number of schools signed up by June 8 represents more than 3 million students in 44 states.

The program has been banned by state education officials in California and New York and its use has been restricted in other states. Officials in Pennsylvania and Louisiana have recently questioned the legality of showing the program, while the superintendent of the Chicago public-school system has refused to allow schools to pre-empt class time for "Channel One."